

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECON, PL, NATO

SUBJECT: ECONADS: DRAFT REPORT TO NAC ON RECENT ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT IN POLAND

REF: USNATO A-15

1. THIS EMBASSY CONSIDERS THE DRAFT REPORT TO BE
GENERALLY EXCELLENT, REFLECTING ACCURATELY THE SENSE
OF THE DISCUSSION IN DECEMBER AS WELL AS THE CONTENT
OF THE ORIGINAL BRITISH DRAFT.

2. WE WOULD LIKE TO REFER TO TWO OR THREE SMALL
POINTS OF DIFFERENCE. FIRST, PARAGRAPH 6 AGAIN
STATES, AS DID THE ORIGINAL BRITISH DRAFT, THAT
POLAND HAS NO LABOR SHORTAGE. IT WAS THIS EMBASSY'S
VIEW, AS STATED IN DECEMBER, THAT WHILE IT MIGHT BE
POSSIBLE TO MAINTAIN THAT THERE IS NO OVERALL LABOR
SHORTAGE IN THAT MANPOWER IS BEING INEFFICIENTLY
EMPLOYED IN THE BUREAUCRACY, NEVERTHELESS THERE
IS AN ACUTE SHORTAGE OF LABOR IN KEY INDUSTRIAL
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AREAS, INCLUDING MINING AND CONSTRUCTION. IN FACT,

SKILLED INDUSTRIAL WORKERS OF ALL KINDS ARE IN DEMAND AND DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSES HAVE LET TO SPECIFIC STATEMENTS BY REGIME FIGURES THAT RAPID INCREASES IN PRODUCTIVITY ARE ESSENTIAL IN VIEW OF THE PRESENT AND PROSPECTIVE LABOR SHORTAGE. THE SECOND SENTENCE OF PARAGRAPH SIX IS ACCURATE, CAST AS IT IS IN THE PAST TENSE. WE FEEL, HOWEVER, THAT THE OFFICIAL POLISH CONCERN OVER FUTURE LABOR SHORTAGES SHOULD BE ACKNOWLEDGED IN THE PRESENT DRAFT.

3. PARAGRAPH 23 CONTAINS A TYPOGRAPHICAL ERROR. IMPORTS IN 1970 EXPRESSED IN DOLLARS SHOULD BE 3607 MILLION, RATHER THAN 5607 MILLION AS SHOWN. FURTHERMORE, OUR CALCULATIONS FOR THE PERCENTAGE INCREASE IN FOREIGN TRADE EXPRESSED IN ZLOTYS OVER THE YEARS 1970-1973 ARE 80.1 PERCENT FOR IMPORTS AND 50.4 PERCENT FOR EXPORTS.

4. THE FOOTNOTE TO PARAGRAPH 24 COULD BE EXPANDED TO SHOW THAT FULL-YEAR FOREIGN TRADE FIGURES FOR 1974 REPORTED AN INCREASE IN EXPORTS OF 29.5 PERCENT AND AN INCREASE IN IMPORTS OF 33.2 PERCENT OVER 1973.

5. PARAGRAPH 27 OF THE DRAFT SHOULD BE AMENDED TO REFLECT THE INCREASE IN SOVIET OIL PRICES WHICH TOOK PLACE IN JANUARY, 1975, A YEAR EARLIER THAN ANTICIPATED. APART FROM THE CHANGE IN THE DATE, THE REST OF THE PARAGRAPH SEEMS WELL-JUDGED AND COULD BE ALLOWED TO STAND AS WRITTEN.

6. PARAGRAPH 28 SHOULD BE AMENDED TO REFLECT 1974 POLISH EXPORTS OF 43 MILLION TONS OF HARD COAL AND COKE.

7. WHILE SOME FULL-YEAR 1974 STATISTICS ARE NOW AVAILABLE, THE STATISTICAL YEARBOOK FOR 1974 HAS NOT YET BEEN ISSUED AND WE ARE NOT YET IN A POSITION TO UPDATE ALL THE STATISTICAL TABLES. THEREFORE, WE DO NOT SUGGEST ANY CHANGES OTHER THAN THOSE NOTED ABOVE.

DAVIES

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